

Activity Guide

Key Locations



KNOW WHERE TO GO

Programs are held throughout the watershed. Make note of where your activity is being held and use the correct entrance. No public roads connect the north and south ends of the reservoir within the watershed. Visitors must exit the watershed and use Vasco Road to travel between the north and south ends of the reservoir by car.



*"The Bay Area's No. 1 fishing lake."
- Tom Stienstra, SF Chronicle*

Fishing & Boating

Experience lake fishing at its finest by casting into Los Vaqueros Reservoir! Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, striped bass, channel catfish, king salmon, sunfish and carp are all available to anglers.

	16-foot Electric Boat	18-foot Pontoon Boat
Hourly Rate	\$25	\$50
Half Day (3-5 hrs)	\$50	\$115
Full Day (5+ hrs)	\$70	\$165
Security Deposit	\$65	\$150

Daily Fishing Fee \$5 per angler

Fishing fees are used to stock fish at Los Vaqueros.

BAIT

Marina Complex

Bait, tackle and snacks available during open hours

North Kiosk

Frozen bait available on afternoons and weekends

WHOPPER CLUB

Win a glass Whopper Mug when you catch fish of certain weights or larger.

Trout	8 lbs.
Catfish	12 lbs.
Striped Bass	10 lbs.
Largemouth Bass*	5 lbs.

*Fish must be released and photo provided with hand scale or 18" measurement.

RAINBOW TROUT LIMIT CLUB

Earn a pin every time you catch the limit. Five pins earn a hat!

Top 5 Activities

1 FISHING
Cast your line and hook sizeable trout, stripers and catfish.

2 BOATING
Stop by the marina for refreshments before taking the family on a boat ride around the lake.

3 BIRDING
Bring your binoculars to one of the area's premier bird-watching destinations.

4 LEARNING
Visit the Interpretive Center for a fascinating journey through the rich cultural and natural histories of the watershed.

5 HIKING
Pack a lunch and set foot on the West Loop Trail near the Marina.

Contact Information

LOS VAQUEROS WATERSHED & MARINA

Open daily	Hours
September	7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
October	7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
November-February	7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
March	7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
April-August	6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Gates are locked promptly at closing time. Call 925-688-8374 after hours.

9990 Los Vaqueros Road, Byron
925-371-2628
f Los Vaqueros Reservoir

JOHN MUIR INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Open Saturdays and Sundays	Hours
Year round	9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

19 Walnut Boulevard, Brentwood
925-240-2440
f Los Vaqueros Interpretive Center

PARKING

\$4 per vehicle
\$6 per vehicle non-ratepayers
\$5 per vehicle non-ratepayer seniors

STAY CONNECTED

Subscribe to the Los Vaqueros Newsletter for the latest information about fishing, boating and recreational activities. To begin receiving the newsletter, sign up at www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros

Photo courtesy of Marc Crumpler



Guided Activities

Programs are free!

(Unless otherwise stated)

Subject to change

We strive to have the most accurate information at time of publication, yet sometimes things change. Visit www.ccwater.com/activities or call 925-688-8010 for the latest program information.

JANUARY



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, January 7
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

MUSHROOMS AND OTHER FUNGI

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, January 21

John Muir Interpretive Center

Join Naturalist Michael Marchiano for an engaging presentation on the mushrooms and fungi of the region and Contra Costa County. Find out about edible as well as "deadly" varieties found in our area. Find out about the important relationships of fungi to other living organisms.

FEBRUARY



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, February 4
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

BIRD-WATCHING BOAT TOUR

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, February 4

Los Vaqueros Marina

\$5 fee per person

Enjoy a pontoon boat ride on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir with Naturalist John Mottashed. While on the water, watch and identify various birds. Expect chilly weather and dress accordingly. Binoculars recommended. Space is very limited and reservations are required. Please call 925-371-2628 and be ready to provide your name, phone number and group size.

BIRD-WATCHING BOAT TOUR

9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, February 18
Los Vaqueros Marina

\$5 fee per person

Enjoy a pontoon boat ride on the Los Vaqueros Reservoir with Naturalist John Mottashed. While on the water, watch and identify various birds. Expect chilly weather and dress accordingly. Binoculars recommended. Space is very limited and reservations are required. Please call 925-371-2628 and be ready to provide your name, phone number and group size.



RAPTOR RAPTURES!

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, February 25
Kellogg Creek Picnic Area

Winter is a fabulous time to see eagles, hawks and falcons in the Bay Area. We will begin our day seeking out raptors and other birds wintering in the Los Vaqueros Watershed at the Kellogg Creek Picnic Area. Then we'll drive up to the John Muir Interpretive Center to continue our search for wintering raptors along the trail! Bring snack, water, binoculars, spotting scopes, bird guides and apps. Wear comfortable shoes for hiking. Up to 1.5 miles, some hills possible, depending on route. Rain cancels.

MARCH



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m.
Saturday, March 4

Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

GIRL SCOUTS: JUNIOR ANIMAL HABITS BADGE

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4

John Muir Interpretive Center

Program is limited to 15 participants

Plan a girl's day out in nature! With naturalist Cat Taylor as your guide, we'll explore the world of wild creatures today as we investigate their habits and habitat in the field and then create a backyard habitat home. Activities geared towards fulfillment of several requirements for Animal Habitats Badge for Junior Girl Scouts. Bring binoculars if you have them. Call 925-688-8010 to register your scouts.



CUB SCOUT PROGRAM - INTO THE WILD

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 11
John Muir Interpretive Center

Program is limited to 20 participants

Bring your Webelos out for an adventure. Naturalist John Mottashed will lead your scouts on a nature hike to complete six of the nine Into the Wild requirements, including: watch for birds, learn about flyways, watch four wild creatures, identify an insect, learn about aquatic ecosystems, and visit a nature center. Call 925-688-8010 to register your scouts.

APRIL



TROUT FISHING DERBY

April 1 through April 30
Los Vaqueros Marina

Experience some of the best lake fishing in the Bay Area and win great prizes! This derby will run the entire month of April with prizes going to the three largest trout. Registration is required and participants may weigh up to the daily legal limit of five fish per day at the Marina. Call 925-371-2628 for details.



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 1
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

THE COLORS OF SPRING

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 1

Walnut Staging Area

Early spring wildflowers are making an appearance. Join Naturalist Michael Marchiano in search of wildflowers and wild birds that make Los Vaqueros their home. We'll meet at the Walnut Staging just past the entry kiosk and make several stops in the watershed. Wear the appropriate clothes for weather conditions and bring water, snack, binoculars, camera and your curiosity.



FISHING FOR BEGINNERS

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 8

Los Vaqueros Marina

Everything you wanted to know about lake fishing, from tying knots to casting. Join Naturalist John Mottashed for a fun and educational hands-on fishing experience at Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Program is intended for boys and girls ages 5 to 10 years. A limited number of loaner rods are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 15

John Muir Interpretive Center

Take a springtime nature hike along Kellogg Creek and meet the fascinating flora and fauna of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. Visit the home of protected red-legged frogs, fence lizards, coyotes and golden eagles. Plants and animals are all out in full spring time regalia. Learn about the surprising lives and relationships between these various creatures and plants.



Photo courtesy of Marc Crumpler

Earth Day Saturday, April 22

NIBBLING ON NATURE: ADVENTURES IN ETHNOBOTANY

9:30 to 11:30 a.m., John Muir Interpretive Center

People have lived in this watershed for over 9,000 years! Learn about the plants that they and others have used for food, medicine, tools and toys through the ages and around the world. We may sample a few as well! Best for ages 7 years and older. May not be suitable for those with food allergies or restrictions.

STARGAZING: LYRID METEOR SHOWER

8 to 10 p.m., Kellogg Creek Picnic Area

Finish your Earth Day by gazing into the heavens! Join NASA Education Ambassador Jeff Adkins at Los Vaqueros Watershed to view the oldest known meteor shower. A waning crescent moon should make for ideal viewing conditions. We'll also look for other celestial wonders. Telescopes available. Visitors are welcome to bring their own telescopes and binoculars.



FAMILY FISHING DAY

Sunday, April 30

Los Vaqueros Marina

Bring the family to Los Vaqueros Reservoir to experience some of the best lake fishing in the Bay Area. Our family fishing day will feature clinics and other activities to wrap up the Trout Fishing Derby.

MAY



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

SNAKES ALIVE!

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 13
John Muir Interpretive Center

Meet some of the common reptiles of Los Vaqueros. See our only venomous snake, the northern Pacific rattler, a timid yet "deadly" creature. Find out what is myth and what is true about these non-aggressive serpents. Meet and hold some of our other local snakes and reptiles.



JUNE



FREE FISHING CLINIC

9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 3
Los Vaqueros Marina

Learn everything you've wanted to know about lake fishing. From bait and knots to trolling and cleaning, our experienced staff will provide tips to help you reel in the big one. Clinics are tailored to participants' skill levels. Open to all ages. Come with questions.

LEAF PRINT A TREE SHIRT

10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 3

John Muir Interpretive Center

Program is limited to 20 participants

Print up wearable works of art using Mother Nature's leafy inspiration! We'll learn to recognize different native trees and create our own tree-shirts! Bring a light-colored T-shirt, or purchase one (we will have a limited supply) for \$5. Wear clothes that can get messy. Great for all ages and scout groups! Call 925-688-8010 to register.

STARGAZING: SATURN IN OPPOSITION

8 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, June 17

Kellogg Creek Picnic Area

Earth lies between Saturn and the Sun during this week, which means Saturn—in a position called opposition—will be close and bright in the night sky. Join NASA Education Ambassador Jeff Adkins to examine the ringed planet, as well as Jupiter and other faint celestial wonders. Telescopes available. Visitors are welcome to bring their own telescopes and binoculars.